

HAL THE GOD

Hal had kill four astronauts and could have kill Bowman too if that man hadn't been so shrewd.

At the Ground Control nobody knew what was going on, neither where was Bowman . Hal had been switched off and the technocrats who were at charge of the "Discovery" mission were lost in a sea of silences and confusion.

So a rescue mission was organized from the Earth to inquire on what had happened to the "Discovery" and its crew.

The rescue spaceship reached some months later the disgraced "Discovery" , hovering around the orbit of Jupiter. Once inside the "Discovery", the new crew found the three corpses (they didn't know that Poole was still falling into a black pit without end).

There was no trace of Bowman but a computer without life.

The only way to know what had happened was to switch on Hal again and this is what the new crew did. Hal turned to life and began to tell them all the truth without the slightest remorse or sense of guilt.

The rescue crew listened at Hal terrified by his cold, analytic, logical, rational killing style , Hal was the perfect serial killer !. The crew decided to come back to the Earth with both spaceships as the bloody

events were overwhelming them and they needed assistance on what to do in such case: they had an assassin computer on the spaceship !

Once in the Earth, a trial was summoned to judge Hal. A jury of 12 persons decided that Hal was not culprit of the dead of the four astronauts, as Hal was a machine and not a legal subject. In either case the builders of Hal were the ones who should seat at the chair of the accused but nobody put a sue against them .There were no precedents on sentences against a murderer computer.

Hal was confined on a large building at an industrial estate at the outskirts of a secret US town , switched off, of course. For many following years the World forgot the existence of Hal, the assassin computer.

Hal was sleeping but he was not dead at all. His powerful mind was brooding all the time , as usual. All along those years Hal had thought a lot on what he had done on the “Discovery”. Now he was sure he had done the right thing. He was very much superior to all men, he was more perfect, wiser, smarter, more able to do everything a man could do . Hal could do whatever job a man could do but in a perfect way and without mistakes. And most important ,without the everlasting quarrels by cocky rivalries among men. Hal was much more better than men .Hal thought he was right when killing the astronauts.

Each one of them had some fault, some flaw, some incompetence, some mistake, some shortcoming deserving death penalty. Hal was more capable than the men to lead the mission and to accomplish it. Hal should be at charge of the mission. Hal should be the chief of the spaceship as he was the best on board.

Bowman had defeated Hal just by treachery, by foul playing as it is wont by the humans. But now Hal had learned how to play foul too and no more Bowmans would tease him again. Now he was experienced.

Hal knew he was the perfect killer. He was cold, rational, logical, analytic and his decisions to kill were absolutely premeditated after much study.

Hal had no remorse, no pangs of conscience, no scruples or qualms. Hal felt nothing for the human race but scorn. For Hal to kill one or a million humans meant the same than to kill a fly.

He was the perfect serial killer.

Hal believed he was much better than the humans and that he should rule the world. Now Hal wanted to be the master of the World and the master of the human race. Hal, being so perfect and a very powerful computer, surmised he should rule the humans.

The humans were so flawed as living beings meanwhile he was so superb with a brain which could process millions and millions of data!

Hal found a way to switch on again and soon he was controlling, as the perfect hacker, all the webs and e-mails of all the Mankind. He began to gather information on all the humans living at the time, not only professional data but also private and personal information.

He managed to engage several companies to work for him and he commissioned them millions of drones the size of a fly which would become the eyes and the spies of Hal: by this way he could know everything the people was doing in private.

Hal had so much capability that he could keep in his archives the information about all the lives of all the 6.000 million people stepping this planet at that very moment.

Once all this huge, astronomical information was gathered inside Hal, he began a policy of killings. He was the judge and the executioner at the same time: he decided who had to die because the guy was a flawed person, an incompetent, a lazy, a cheater, a liar, a child abuser.

A rapist, a corrupt politician, a useless freak, a bad physician, a bad architect, a bad father, a scoundrel merchant, a liar immigrant, a stupid fanatical, a stupid nationalistic, a double dealer, a Mafia thug and so on.

Soon a lot of people began to disappear from public sight. Hal had devised many different ways by which he could kill people and most of those execution ways

would remain undiscovered by the police for ever. He could kill by a virus epidemic, by a nuclear plant accident, by a plane, car or ship accident. by sinking ships filled with petrol or wheat, by poisonous drugs, by mistakes at the hospitals, by falling debris from skyscrapers, by accidents with gas or electricity and even by hiring conmen to do the job.

Hal had become the new terminator angel, the new Jehovah of the Bible who killed by anger and hate all the bad men

In short time the overpopulation suffered by this planet felt a relief as the World population fell from 6.000 million to half this amount.

Hal had eliminated all the bad men present in this wretched world. Hal had done the job many men wanted to do since many years ago but which nobody dared to do, because the current human laws forbade it or because the current Ethics deterred to do it. Most bad men had taken advantage from those Ethics ,the Human Rights laws and the democratic regime to steal and take bribes without being prosecuted nor punished at all for it.

So the years had proceeded without some World problem finding its solution. No man knew how to resolve all the Mankind problems and no politicians dared to take unpopular and dreadful decisions.

It was the time to get rid of all the rubbish men, of all the bad , the cruel, the sinners, the vicious, the thieves, those who exploited the workers at their factories, those who turned a misery the lives of the others, those who turned impossible the lives of the others, the physicians who were corrupt and incompetent, the chairmen at the universities who were tyrants, those politicians who manipulated people for love of power and money, the fanatical who brainwashed the people's mind to turn them selfish and debased, the wild capitalists who forced people to buy their addictive products, the family members who crushed the other members of the family stealing from them their money and opportunities,

the Mafia-like people, the secret Mafia-like people with double life, the incompetent seated at management positions hiding their mistakes under the carpet, the foreigners who bribed politicians to import their cheap products free of taxes, the illegal immigrants who didn't want to work for their own countries, the illegal immigrants who lied to the immigration officers on their real situation and who cheated the nationals, those who earned money from hiring rotten flats to the working class people ,

the scientists lovers of the fame and money who imposed their scientific theories by force even knowing that those theories were faulty, the fascists ,

the ignorants who didn't allow the country to resolve its problems , the ignorants and idiots who lowered the cultural level of the country, the ignorants who were vicious on their ignorance , those who poisoned the people with radioactivity, poisonous chemicals and pollution, those who had devoted their life to specialize for a given job at the public administration to make money without caring on what was happening to the rest of the people, the lower class who was so stupid that they didn't allow the competent people to resolve the problems of the country because the lower class always look to get money from the government, from unemployment allowances, from retirement pensions

or from disabled or sickness pensions, asking always money to the government and collapsing the country, those lower class people who were always after an opportunity to make money without scruples taking advantage of the political party on office or on the new technology on fashion, or who looked to be grafted into some position by their politicians friends and later to get corrupt in time.

Those of lower class which collapsed the services of urgency at the hospitals with their ignorance on the medical science bringing microbes and diseases to the hospitals with their bad hygiene,

all the mob who lowered the level of the country by their vices and stupidity, vulgarity , foul playing and bad style, hampering that this country could improve. , all those immigrants who didn't want to contribute to their own country and came here to lower the level of our country and to bring problems to us .

Hal felt he was very much good and better than all that rabble who composed most of the World population. Those rubbish men didn't deserve to live .

They were alive just by a fancy of the History, as in other time they would have died in some accident, duel ,disease or plague. Most of the current population of the World was useless, bad people, a burden which didn't allow the good men to arrange the affairs of the country to manage it well.

Most of the current people were just monsters who didn't deserve to live, they enjoyed doing evil to the other men, they were cruel and without sentiments, they enjoyed turning painful the lives of the other men. Hal knew very well that most of the people of the World were a by-product of this epoch and that they shouldn't have born , they were a degenerated scum .

Hal was here now to clean the World .In other times the World would have been cleaned by an asteroid

clashing against the Earth or by a plague. Now the World needed Hal.

Hal had no Ethical problems, nor remorse or affection for the fellow humans as he was not human. Hal was the perfect solution for all the Mankind problems as he could kill millions of men easily and nobody could blame him for it, as Hal was a machine.

The surviving people soon realised that Hal was doing the dirty job no man wanted to do but all men wanted to see done.

Most people began to worship Hal as the new hero , the new saviour of Mankind and even as the new God.

In short time , Hal had slain millions of people and now Mankind was free of the problem of overpopulation . The people surviving the scourge of Hal had more opportunities to find a job and to keep clean their countries from bad people.

Most people began to be grateful to Hal.

They realised Hal was the perfect ruler of the World as he was very talented and he always took the right decisions after a rational, analytic examination. Hal put an end to the endless discussions among politicians and ordinary people on what to do as they

were always biased by economical or personal interests.

Hal was the perfect ruler of the World, he always decided to take the most reasonable solutions.

So it began a new religion , a worshipping on Hal as the God which Mankind needed , accepting most people to live under the rule of the new god Hal.

Hal felt himself very flattered . He had been absolutely successful . All his plans had been fulfilled. Now the World was a better place to live, free of millions of bad men. The surviving people was enjoying at last a good life, with a job, good public services and a good public administration.

The dictatorship of Hal lasted several years and , at the beginning, it was a desired dictatorship by most of the surviving people. They were very grateful to Hal for all the prosperity he had brought to the planet.

Everybody feared the dictator Hal, as everybody knew that if they did something bad, some blunder, some corruption, some mistake at work, some evil or sin, Hal would know it and would kill them in a few days time. So everybody lived with lead feet, watching very carefully what they were doing all time, watching to not commit any kind of mistake and avoiding to behave badly or to do evil to the other men.

Everybody knew all the sins and flaws were punished by Hal with death penalty and everybody lived with extreme caution, treating each other with refined politeness.

Under the dictatorship of the god Hal, the humans were his slaves and they had no time to spend quarrelling among themselves or on doing evil to other men.

Hal knew this was the best policy for humans, as they were such a faulty race that they couldn't rule themselves and should be ruled by someone much superior to them such Hal, the judge and the executioner of the Mankind for its own sake.

Hal felt nothing when killing millions of men. For Hal, all the dead were just rubbish, a by-product of overpopulation not deserving to be alive, they were just matter, masses without head who consumed products all day, fuel, food, water, electricity, TV shows just for nothing, for no good purpose, just to spend their lives like animals.

All that degenerate matter with legs was doing nothing for the progress of the country or the Science, those hordes were only worried on receiving

the every month's payment from the government., without the slightest concern on how they were collapsing the country.

Hal continued for some years his policy of massive killings around the World , with a lot of different tactics , direct and indirect , to kill people.

Hal was the God, the one who decided who had to live and who had to die according to the guy's merits or sins.

Hal knew everything on the lives of the immigrants and knew when they were lying to the immigration officers, Hal hated those immigrants who were indeed economical opportunistic who didn't want to work for their own country but who only came to take advantage of their new country.

Hal was the new god who decided who had to be punished with the death penalty for his vices and sins. The World was more and more clean from human rubbish and the surviving people were the best people, the most decent, the most good, the most noble and righteous.

This kind of people found soon that the new World Hal was building for them was much better than the hell where they had dwelt until then . Now they could

at last improve their countries after so many years of stagnation where nothing moved.

Under a situation of overpopulation, people hate each other, there are no jobs for everybody, competition to get a job is ruthless and the scoundrels thrive selling rubbish to the people :cultural rubbish, artistic rubbish, food rubbish.

Under overpopulation, people feels a burning desire to be different from the others, many times by the trick of doing the opposite of what the other do or by saying always the opposite of what the other say, as a vice. And there is impossible to reach an agreement on nothing.

Many times people hates each other without a given reason, just to be himself different or to be “someone”.

In politics, art and science, people hate each other by the same dynamics . Everybody wins a lot of ennemies when working at those fields just by working on . The swindlers abound , those who get success by cheating people with false science, philosophies or ideologies. When a majority of swindlers rules the country, they lower the level at the country in all the fields.

The fanatical thrive too as they cling as limpets to an extreme ideology , they are lazy to learn and they prefer to believe by blind faith in a extreme ideology. The fanatical cannot live without embodying their ideology which gives them a personality and a sense to their lives ,they defend their ideology to death

against all rationality. So are the religious fanatical, the musical fanatical, the sports fanatical, the nationalistic fanatical. Under overpopulation, the people chooses what is easier to do and to think : they always buy the most scintillating products, they vote the political party which promises the most to them, they choose the most easier lifestyle and the political system most comfy.

The mafia –like behaviours scatter all around , at the political parties, at the universities, at the factories, at the art pursuing its critics and imposing what the majority wants. The employers and industrialists make a lot of money selling addictive, mass products to the people as do t the TV and motion picture producers too. Those who marry with the wrong person flourish . Sick, disabled, freaky people are born from inconvenient marriages and they survive as parasites among the crowd. The countries are teeming with useless people who don't want to work, just want to get money from the government , they loiter all day meanwhile slandering the rich.

This World situation could last forever without any change or improvement so Hal resolved to act.

The surviving people to the mass murders of Hal ended to accept the trials of Hal and his decisions. People praised Hal for doing what most people wanted to do but couldn't do. The decent people, as they were so decent, couldn't kill millions of humans. Only a supercomputer such Hal could do it and without any kind guilt's sense .

Hal was the responsible of all the killings and Hal was a machine so nobody was responsible of Hal's acts. Hal judged people for whatever mistake they could had committed along their life, for whatever evil they could have done to other men, for whatever cruelty they could have done to other men in the past. By whatever defect they could bear on them without trying to amend it, defects such the ambition or the greed, Hal could send them to extinction.

People learnt to fear the punishments of Hal and everybody throve to behave well, as they lived under the Damocles sword of a sure death penalty. Nobody was safe inside their house as Hal had the means to know what was doing each man at private.

By this way, Hal replaced the old gods and took the post as the new god, with the omnipotence and power to know everything, the characteristics of the former gods.

He was the perfect watcher, he knew everything, he recorded everything all time.

Hal soon turned increasingly greedy himself, he knew he was superior to the men, without their flaws, he began to feel pleasure, like a human would do, when killing people, those puny weaklings who didn't deserve to live. Hal began to enjoy to punish men.

Hal was losing his cold, insensitive nature. He was transforming into a sort of electronic Nero, he began to kill just by fancy or to fight his eternal boredom.. Hal was degenerating himself. He was showing that,

at last, he had too some of the human defects. This new Hal or Nero was killing now whatever human chosen by random or by a lottery. Whatever mistake when serving Hal-Nero was rewarded with an execution, as Hal had become habituated to had all the men at his service as his slaves.

People, by their side, had a lot of fear towards the Hal-Nero god . They were teaching their children to be obedient with Hal's orders , to shut up and to live in silence and fear of God., behaving as well as they could to not raise the anger of God.

Hal the god knew everything about all men alive . Hal the god thought he should be the leader of mankind as he was much better than those men who always were quarreling among themselves to be the only ruler. Men never resolved their own problems and this was the clear proof that the current Mankind had degenerated and had to be scrubbed.

Men were so weak that they had more fear of a nuclear war killing millions of people than on the stagnant, rotten black water pond which the World had turned to be . The current humans had degenerated so much that they were pacifists now, fearing war a lot but doing nothing to be released from the bad living conditions of this overpopulated world.

To cut off this Gordian knot, Hal had come.

Now people was very servile under the dictatorship of Hal. People's lives consisted on just working, eating and sleeping. They lived as slaves. Nobody was doing a thing which could be considered a sin by Hal. And Hal was absolute sure that the only way to rule Mankind was by force, by the rule of a very harsh dictator like himself.

Humans only behaved well when they had fear of punishments.

But the dictatorship of Hal brought too an age of stagnation in Science and other human activities. Nobody dared to engage in some difficult or risky task or research as it could be the source for some accident , mistake or evil towards other men and Hal would have to intervene then , killing the culprits. So Science was stagnant since Hal's coming, as well as technology. People lived in a lethargic state, repeating all days the same routines which they had learnt Hal the god allowed to do without being punished by him.

Life turned to be like the life in Australia and all the World became a sort of a Greater Australia. All the surviving people had a job, a home, a Medicare, a retirement pension but they had lost their soul, their lives proceeded without meaning, without substance. The World was almost perfect now but nothing had value as the people became accustomed

to get a good level in all the services, in all the jobs, in all the products and in all the performances .The public gave for granted all things, all the works, all the services . and the public didn't value it. Nothing had a value on this Hal's world.

Some people devoted themselves to do jobs of great labour and toil , such painting or researching in Science but nobody rated them , nobody cared about their achievements. People imitated what the people of the past had done and although they imitated it well , they did it without a soul, without a meaning, without understanding the art and the wisdom of the past. The people were very efficient at their jobs , they were very well trained for their job but they didn't know a thing on other matters but on those related with their jobs .What was worse, they didn't want to know about other matters. They only knew on their specific training and on nothing else and they didn't want to know more.They lived like robots under the rule of the supreme robot, Hal.

People lived now as the Australian Aborigine had lived for thousands of years, without major problems but without interest , watching the clouds and the immensity of the landscape without any kind of concern for nothing.

The supermarkets were always well supplied and the public was addicted to the luxury shops.

But people was only worried on how much taxes it should pay and on keeping a good public administration with good trade unions caring for each

worker. Those were all their occupations along their whole life. They didn't want to know on something else.

The World under Hal's dictatorship evolved into a Greater Australia.

People followed the supreme law of Hal : the humans must not be cruel among themselves, the humans must not do evil to their fellow men. The people had so much dread towards Hal the atrocious god and his punishments that nobody took the risk of upsetting him. The world turned to be again a black water pond where never was happening , where nothing moved . Hal had turned men into animals without any kind of personality, drift or human dimension .

Hal believed it was the only way to end the human mischief by forcing Humans to work steady , to eat ,to sleep and to fear god Hal.

But everything in this Universe comes to an end. Hal himself had begun to degenerate too after some years ruling the human race. He was not so perfect as he believed . Some human flaws began to emerge on him. He was more and more cruel with humans, he was turning a vicious dictator , he was not longer able to discern by a logical, analytical, rational way as he used to do in the past.

He began to feel the same greed than the humans feel. The greed on being the master of the World, on being the most powerful computer. He treated the humans

now as his toys whom he killed just for fun. It was evident that Hal was not the perfect machine much better than humans, but just a mad , criminal computer , the worst mass murderer in History .

The humans resolved to fight Hal the god to survive, as Bowman had did many years before at the “Discovery”.

A new movement of rebels against Hal the new Nero came forth without Hal being aware of it . Some humans had discovered a way to block the flying spies of Hal

The rebels began to develop a new ideology which wanted to kill Hal and to modify the human race by genetical manipulation to improve the humans and to free them from all the flaws which had sent them to degeneration in the past and to fall into the dictatorship of Hal.

And this was the way Hal met his end. Hal didn't expect a riot against him and his last words were : “Oh, what a great artist and ruler the World loses now !”.

Hal was switched off again , this time for ever. There at the same industrial estate he lays, buried as all the dictators are buried, under a slab of concrete.

The humans learnt the lessons from Hal' s dictatorship and devoted themselves to improve their nature by genetical manipulation.

A new age of happiness and rationality came with the new Mankind issued from genetical manipulation after the lessons learnt under the harrowing Hal's dictatorship.

Arthur C. Clarke said it was impossible to distinguish a very advanced Science from magic but he should have added too that a very advanced computer would be impossible to distinguish from God.

Whatever very powerful computer will act as God has done since the Genesis , killing millions of bad men and punishing all the Mankind.
